

STATE SENATOR • MARTHA G. SCOTT

# Scott Press Release



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## SEN. SCOTT PRAISES ACTION AGAINST LEAD POISONING

**LANSING** – State Senator Martha G. Scott (D-Highland Park) praised the action of the Senate Committee on Families and Human Services in protecting Michigan’s children, as the committee reported out her bill, Senate Bill 1198, that would require all children participating in WIC to receive lead screening testing. WIC is the supplemental food program for women, infants and children. Currently, 300,000 Michigan children are served by the WIC program. Roughly 80 percent of them are enrolled in the Medicaid program, which already requires lead screening testing. The bill will now go to the full Senate for a vote.

“I am thrilled that this vulnerable part of our population will be served by the lead screening testing,” Sen. Scott said. “It is our responsibility as lawmakers to speak for those who cannot speak for themselves, and it is rewarding when our voices are heard. I’m confident that my Senate colleagues on both sides of the aisle will join me in passing this important legislation.”

The basic screening involves a blood test. If a positive result is found, a second test is performed and follow-up treatment is prescribed if necessary. Detroit children make up a solid majority of the confirmed cases of lead poisoning statewide, although less than half of them are currently tested for lead poisoning.

In its Annual Report to the Legislature issued in March of this year, the Michigan Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention and Control Commission noted that with 80 percent of children in Medicaid using WIC and with 50 percent of Michigan newborns eligible for WIC, *WIC sites are the single most opportune location for lead testing in young children.* With Michigan health plans mandated to test 80 percent of high risk children by October 1 of 2007, Sen. Scott’s bill will go a long way toward meeting that required mandate.

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*Senator Scott represents the 2<sup>nd</sup> Senate District, which includes areas of Detroit and the cities of Hamtramck, Harper Woods, Highland Park and all of the Grosse Pointes. She serves on the Senate Appropriations Committee.*